of roster/utilization and availability of Pilots in unforeseen contigencies.

Employees State Insurance (ESI)

973. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV
SHRI CHITTA BASU
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY
SHRI N.J. RATHWA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the total number of employees covered under the Employees State Insurance;

(b) whether the ESI propose to bring 10 lakh more industrial workers by revising its eligibility criteria under the cover of ESI;

(c) if so, whether this issue figured at the recently held Conference of Labour Ministers of States;

(d) if so, whether some State Governments have supported the enhancement of wage limit and also increase in the rate of contribution;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps taken by the Government for better relation between employer and employee to boost the production?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) 66.13 Lakhs.

(b) to (e) The Labour Ministers' Conference of major States was held on 4.10.96. The Conference recommended enhancement of the wage limit for coverage from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6500/- and also for enhancement of the employees' contribution from 1.5% to 1.75% and employers' contribution from 4% to 4.75% of the monthly wage. Based on the recommendations of the Conference a draft notification to carry out necessary amendments in the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950 has since been issued on 31.10.96 for objections/suggestions of all concerned. Nearly 9.60 Lakh industrial workers are expected to be brought back under the ESI Scheme on issue of the amended notification.

(f) Improving employer-employee relationship and increasing productivity is a continuous process. In furtherance of these objectives the Government has recently revised the rates of Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. A new comprehensive Pension Scheme for industrial workers has also been introduced with effect from 16.11.1995.

Aviation Sphere

974. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have established cooperation with United States in the aviation sphere;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made between both the countries in this regard;

(c) whether efforts are being made by the Government for Indo-US relations in the field of aviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The Air Transport Agreement between India and U.S.A. was signed in 1956. The provisions of this Agreement are reviewed by the two Governments from time to time to take care of the changing traffic requirements. Salient features of the Agreement at the last round of bilateral discussions held in November/December 1995 between the two sides are :

(i) Indian carriers will have access to ten additional points of call in the US.

(ii) The rights to operate to Chicago and Washington for the Indian carrier would also include fifth freedom traffic rights between London and these two points upto a maximum of seven frequencies per week. Traffic rights between London and Chicago are restricted to a maximum of three frequencies per week. Traffic rights to all the ten new points are unrestricted through all other points including those in Europe.

(iii) US airlines have been granted two additional points of call of India.

(iv) Code share arrangement has been agreed between Air India and United Airlines for the latter's round the - world operation introduced with effect from December 15, 1995. In addition, code share flights can also be operated with airlines of any third country.

(v) North West Airlines of USA will not be allowed entry upto January, 1997. No other US airline will start direct operations to India until 1st November, 1998.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Railway Wagons and Coaches

975. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Railway Wagons and Coaches manufacturing institutions in Public/Private Sectors including their installed capacities;

(b) whether these institutions have able to tap their installed capacity;